

***Always and
Without
Hesitation***

**How Full-Time Students' Union Staff can better
support Student Activism**

Where We Are



Content Warning

The content and discussions shared in this workshop will focus heavily on sexual assault and sexualized violence on post-secondary campuses. The small group activity we have planned will also briefly touch on the Montreal Massacre.

We encourage you to check-in with yourself frequently, and do what you need to feel comfortable and safe. Support will be available during the workshop for those who need it.

Meet the team



Addy Strickland



Emma Kuzmyk



About us

Writing Activism is an anthology of student voices that is both a record and an act of protest, progress, and survival. The finished book includes stories of anti-sexualized violence activism from 26 contributors across 15 campuses and 7 provinces.

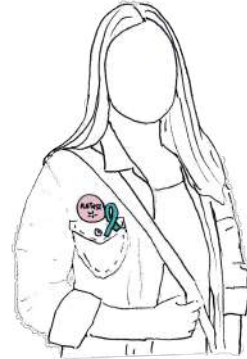
Connections to Student Government



***Vice President
Academic***



***Peer Support
Program***



***The Xaverian
Weekly***

Your Turn!

Introduce yourselves within your small groups, and find three things you all have in common (no, it can't be that you all work for Students' Unions, or that you live in Canada - get creative!)

Common Themes

- A lack of privacy and anonymity for student union executives and counsellors.
- Student union support (or lack of) being a huge determinant in the success of a movement.
- Opportunities for student unions to give monetary support.
- Power imbalances between university administrators and student union members that can feed inaction.
- Burnout.



The Roadblocks

- Fear of failure that can feed into not supporting or creating new initiatives.
- Lack of knowledge about the union's budget and where there might be space for new initiatives.
- Pressure put on executives and councillors to maintain good relationships with administrators, sometimes to the detriment of advocating for student needs.
- Lack of understanding of work/life balance - this is many students first times in an office environment.



What would have helped?

- Ensuring that student union executives and councillors are able to maintain a level of privacy in the role (not making it a norm to have phone numbers in email signatures or on websites, for example).
- Supporting councillors and executives in their attempts to create/support new initiatives, reminding them that every initiative was new once and that its okay to take risks.
- When new initiatives are brought to council, take it upon yourself to see where in the budget it can fit and where the budget has flexibility.
- Remind student leaders that their role is first and foremost advocating for student needs.
- Support your student leaders.



***The StFX
Peer
Support
Program***

Always & Without Hesitation

- Offered advice on how to get past council
- Answered ~1 Billion questions
- Made time to debrief and offer emotional support
- Helped troubleshoot issues that came up
- Supported connections and communicated with lawyers and insurance on our behalf
- Helped find physical resources
- Supported the creation of documentation



***A Case Study of
Activism at Queen's in
1989, with excerpts
from "1989" by
Penelope Hutchison
& Julie Glaser***



1. What are the key issues facing ROFF that you can identify in this story?
2. Where could you in your role as a permanent Students' Union staff member have supported the students involved in ROFF, and their activist efforts?

3. Have you witnessed similar issues or activist responses on your own campuses?
 - a. How did you respond?
 - b. Looking back now, would you have responded any differently?

Our Calls to Action

1. Connect with your community
2. Apply what you've learned.
3. Take time to rest and heal.
4. Believe survivors. Always, and without hesitation.

Let's Stay Connected!

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